

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

February 1908: "Bicyclist in Santa Ana Recklessly Runs before Automobile and is Skidded. While riding in front of an automobile and blocking its speed, a young man from Orange was today knocked off his bicycle by an automobile on North Main street and was skidded along the pavement on the seat of his trousers for about sixty feet. He made a dash in front of a machine driven by W.E. McFadden of Placentia. Suddenly the bicycle rider in misjudging the speed of the automobile, was struck and knocked down. He fell flat on his stomach on the pavement. Had he been a smaller man he would have passed under the automobile with disastrous results, but the seat of his trousers was caught on the front axel. McFadden brought his machine to a stop, but not before the bicyclist had been treated to a rough trip over the electric car rails and the cobblestones beside them." *Los Angeles Times* (February 17, 1908) I15.

1908: "Saucer Track Thrown Open. Motorcycles and Bicycles to Spin Today. Hair Rising Driving to be Feature of the Day. Twenty-five bicycle and motorcycle riders are entered to contest in the opening programme of wheel races at the new saucer eight-lap track at Seal Gardens this afternoon. Fifteen events will be given, including wheel and motorcycle, from one to five miles. All of the riders have been training faithfully for two weeks and are prepared to give exhibitions. Wheel devotees are eager to witness the races on the steep angle wooden track and many enthusiasts will be afforded their first view of the wheelman circling the planks at a dizzying pace." *Los Angeles Times* (July 4, 1908) pg. I7

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0206; csisirc@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

PRISONERS

Unlocking America: Why and How to Reduce America's Prison Population.
By James Austin, The JFA Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2007. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.jfa-associates.com/publications/srs/UnlockingAmerica.pdf>

["We summarize the current problem, explaining how some of the most popular assumptions about crime and punishment are incorrect. In particular, we demonstrate that incarcerating large numbers of people has little impact on crime, and show how the improper use of probation and parole increases incarceration rates while doing little to control crime. We then turn to ideas about how to change this flawed system. We set out an organizing principle for analyzing sentencing reform, embracing a retributive sentencing philosophy that is mainstream among contemporary prison policy analysts and sentencing scholars. Based on that analysis, we make a series of recommendations for changing current sentencing laws and correctional policies. Each recommendation is practical and cost-effective."]
[Request #S08-7-1772]

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PRISONERS

Accelerated Release: A Literature Review. By Carolina Guzman and others, National Council on Crime and Delinquency. (The Council, Oakland, California) January 2008. 9 p.

Full text at: http://www.nccd-crc.org/nccd/pubs/2008jan_focus_accelRel.pdf

["High incarceration rates often lead to prison overcrowding. One way to address this overcrowding is through accelerated release programs. Accelerated release programs have been implemented throughout the country in different ways and at different times. They have always been confronted with opposition by critics who claim that accelerated release poses a threat to public safety. We conducted a review of published studies to examine the accuracy of that assumption."]
[Request #S08-7-1749]

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PRISONERS

Meeting the Challenges of Rehabilitation in California's Prison and Parole System. By Governor Schwarzenegger's Rehabilitation Strike Team members and staff. (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Sacramento, California) December 2007. 124 p.

Full text at:
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/docs/GovRehabilitationStrikeTeamRpt_012308.pdf

["Over the last three decades, California has dismantled most rehabilitation programs. Of the \$43,300 spent per prisoner annually, just \$2,053 (5%) is spent on rehabilitation programs. The correctional culture is now focused mostly on custody concerns rather than rehabilitation. Because of overcrowding, prisoners now sleep in space previously used for teaching, vocational education, and drug treatment programs.... We pursued a four-pronged strategy for bringing rehabilitation programs back into the corrections system.... The details of the four initiatives are described with a discussion of the background motivating the initiative, the details of the proposed changes and their anticipated impacts, a timeline for implementation, and a discussion of implementation challenges."]
[Request #S08-7-1783]

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PRISONERS

From Cellblocks to Classrooms: Reforming Inmate Education To Improve Public Safety. By the California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) February 2008. 32 p.

Full text at:

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/crim/inmate_education/inmate_education_021208.pdf

["Only 54,000 of the prison system's 170,000 inmates attend academic, vocational, industries or independent study programs, even though 75 percent of its population reads at the high school level. Numerous studies show that recidivism decreases when education increases, and that savings can reach as much as \$14,000 per inmate-turned-productive citizen. The report laid out a six-point plan to get more cons into class. Among the suggestions: increase visiting hours, sentencing time credits and other incentives for inmates who complete school programs; fill teacher vacancies; get more prisoners into classrooms even when their housing units are locked down due to violent disturbances." Sacramento Bee (February 13, 2008) A3.]

[Request #S08-7-1778]

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DEMOGRAPHY

CENSUS

Census Atlas of the United States. By the U.S. Census Bureau. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) 2007. Various pagings

Full text at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/censusatlas/>

["The U.S. Census Bureau has released the first comprehensive atlas of population and housing produced by the Census Bureau since the 1920s. The atlas is a large-format publication that is about 300 pages long and contains almost 800 maps. A variety of topics are covered in the Census Atlas, ranging from language and ancestry characteristics to housing patterns and the geographic distribution of the population. A majority of the maps in the Census Atlas present data at the county level, but data also are sometimes mapped by state, census tract (for largest cities and metropolitan areas), and for selected American Indian reservations." TRB Newsletter (February 12, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-7-1781]

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ECONOMY

BANKING

Banking on Wealth: America's New Retail Banking Infrastructure and Its Wealth-Building Potential. By Matt Fellowes and Mia Mabanta, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) January 2008. 32 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/01_banking_fellowes/01_banking_fellowes.pdf

["Moderate- and lower-income households pay over \$8 billion in fees to non-bank checkcashing and short-term loan providers to meet their basic financial services needs. ... Over 90 percent of these non-bank basic financial service providers are located within one mile of a bank or credit union branch.... Despite popular perception, bank and credit union branches are more likely to be located in low-income and lower middle-income neighborhoods than non-bank financial services providers.... In sum, there is a substantial opportunity to leverage this wide distribution of banks and credit unions to connect moderate- and lower-income households to potentially lower-cost basic financial services."]
[Request #S08-7-1771]

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BANKING

The Power of Experience in Understanding the Underbanked Market. By Jennifer Tescher, Center for Financial Services Innovation, and others. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) June 2007. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.cfsinnovation.com/doc.php?load=/keybank_paper.pdf

["Financial institutions have begun to recognize the enormous potential in serving underbanked households, but it is becoming clear that attracting these consumers is no simple task. KeyBank, which began offering check-cashing services and complementary educational curricula for non-customers in 2004, has been a pioneer among large U.S. banks in launching services targeted to the underbanked market. KeyBank and the Center for Financial Services Innovation engaged Market Innovations, Inc. to learn how to improve acquisition efforts and identify tactics that might appeal to these diverse consumers. Overall, the study confirms the importance of understanding the varied preferences of underbanked consumers in designing an optimal financial services experience for them."].
[Request #S08-7-1770]

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INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Growing Business Dependence on the Internet: New Risks Require CEO Action. By the Business Roundtable. (The Roundtable, Washington, DC) September 2007. 47 p.

Full text at:

http://www.businessroundtable.org/pdf/Security/BR_Internet_Business_Dependence_Report_09252007.pdf

["It's likely that the Internet will soon experience a catastrophic failure, a multi-day outage that will cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars. Or maybe it isn't likely.... The threat is 'urgent and real,' says The Business Roundtable and says there is a 10% to 20% chance of a 'breakdown of the critical information infrastructure' in the next 10 years, brought on by 'malicious code, coding error, natural disasters, [or] attacks by terrorists and other adversaries.' An Internet meltdown would result in reduced productivity and profits, falling stock prices, erosion of consumer spending and potentially a liquidity crisis." Computerworld (January 21, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-7-1759]

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EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Managing More Than a Thousand Remodeling Projects: School Restructuring in California. By Caitlin Scott and others, Center on Education Policy. (The Center, Washington, DC) February 07, 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.cep-dc.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/CARestructuringFeb2008.pdf

["Oakland's public school system is often compared to a laboratory. National policy experts have watched, fascinated, as the state-run administration created new schools, overhauled old ones and, in a few instances, handed the reins over to chartering organizations. Captivating, yes, but is it working? Very, very slowly, according to a report that conducted case studies of four Oakland schools.... The report analyzed the progress of 597 California schools in the most intensive reform phase of the No Child Left Behind Act. In 2007, just 33 of those schools had scored high enough on state tests to exit the federal watch list." Oakland Tribune (February 8, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-7-1769]

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SCHOOL FINANCE

Funding Formulas for California Schools: Simulations and Supporting Data.
By Heather Rose and others, Public Policy Institute of California. (The
Institute, San Francisco, California) January 2008. 72 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/op/OP_108HROP.pdf

["California's school finance system is long overdue for fundamental reform. The authors of this paper simulate an alternative school finance system recently proposed by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley (Bersin, Kirst, and Liu). They conclude that the proposed system provides a good starting point for the kind of reform effort the state needs to undertake. This paper briefly reviews student needs and district costs throughout California and then discusses the results and implications of the simulation models"].

[Request #S08-7-1734]

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ENERGY

SOLAR POWER

Solar Energy: As the Cost of This Resource Becomes More Competitive With Other Renewable Resources, Applications to Construct New Solar Power Plants Should Increase. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) January 2008. 53 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2007-119.pdf>

["Despite state goals to encourage alternative energy, no application to build a large solar power plant in California has been approved in 18 years, and new projects could face significant delays in the bureaucracy. Power plants must go through multiple agencies for approval, and there is no one authority that can smooth the process. The report found that economics are largely to blame for the lack of large solar projects under construction.

"These factors include the lower cost of electricity generated from other renewable sources, the need for large investments in land and infrastructure, and an unproductive incentive system designed to help firms that generate power from renewable sources meet their costs." Los Angeles Times (January 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-7-1681]

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SOLAR POWER

The Market Value and Cost of Solar Photovoltaic Electricity Production. By Severin Borenstein, University of California Energy Institute. (The Institute, Berkeley, California) January 2008. 38 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ucei.berkeley.edu/PDF/csemwp176.pdf>

["I find that the favorable timing of solar PV production increases its value by 0%-20%, but if the system were run with more reliance on price-responsive demand and peaking prices, the premium value of solar PV would be in the 30%-50% range. Solar PV is also argued to have enhanced value within an electrical grid, because the power is produced at the location of the end-user and therefore can reduce the costs of transmission and distribution investments. My analysis, however, suggests that actual installation of solar PV systems in California has not significantly reduced the cost of transmission and distribution infrastructure, and is unlikely to do so in other regions."]

[Request #S08-7-1751]

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SOLAR POWER

Property Tax Assessments as a Finance Vehicle for Residential PV Installations: Opportunities and Potential Limitations. By Mark Bolinger, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. (The Laboratory, Berkeley, California) February 2008. 10 p.

Full text at: <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/ems/cases/property-tax-finance.pdf>

["This report describes the mechanics of a new type of photovoltaic (PV) financing program recently proposed by the City of Berkeley, California, and being considered by other cities throughout the U.S. Specifically, these cities propose to offer their residents the ability to utilize increased property tax assessments as a means of repaying over time the up-front cost of installing PV systems. Although this type of program has a number of appealing features, two fundamental program characteristics -- government involvement and an attractive interest rate -- may cause the IRS to consider such programs to be 'subsidized energy financing,' which in turn would reduce or eliminate the ability of program participants to take advantage of the Federal investment tax credit for solar."]

[Request #S08-7-1737]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

OIL SPILLS

Incident Specific Preparedness Review: M/V Cosco Busan Oil Spill in San Francisco Bay: Report on Initial Response Phase. By Carlton Moore, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, retired, and others. (The Guard, Alameda, California) January 11, 2008. 155 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.uscgsanfrancisco.com/posted/823/CoscoBusanISPRFinal.190115.pdf>

[“The first major report on the San Francisco Bay oil spill praises the work of response crews in cleaning up the oil, but criticizes the Coast Guard for failing to alert local authorities in a timely way and involve local volunteers. The report does not shed any new light on why the freighter Cosco Busan struck the Bay Bridge. The agency takes some hits in the report -- especially for underestimating the size of the spill and failing to quickly notify Bay Area officials. State and federal officials also are criticized for turning away hundreds of volunteers eager to join the cleanup....The report praises the agency and private cleanup crews for recovering almost 40 percent of the oil spilled into the bay -- a much higher percentage than is typically recovered.” San Francisco Chronicle (January 28, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-7-1746]

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SALTON SEA

Restoring the Salton Sea. By Brendan McCarthy, Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) January 24, 2008. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/rsrc/salton_sea/salton_sea_01-24-08.pdf

["The office did not endorse or oppose the restoration plan that's before lawmakers. Instead, it called for state officials to consider the current realities -- mainly the state's \$14.5 billion deficit -- before embarking on any fixes at the state's largest lake.... The new recommendations did not sit well with local sea supporters who are trying to gain state and federal funding before the sea shrinks. Many of the suggestions -- from giving the state authority over the restoration to de-emphasizing water quality -- conflict with the priorities locals set.... According to the report, lawmakers should deal with the Salton Sea comprehensively and outline long-term financing from the beginning." The Desert Sun (January 25, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-7-1680]

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WILDFIRES

Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force Report. By the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force. (The Commission, Oroville, California) January 18, 2008. 106 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cpf.org/default/linkserv/index.cfm?contentid=AE57C9FC-E0C3-218B-0C90EC0FC8EE48F6>

["Included in the new review are several familiar proposals, from bolstering front-line defenses to adding aerial support. There's also an emphasis on prevention and a proposal to further explore issues surrounding development limits, building codes and defensible space in fire-prone areas.... The report also reviews progress made on proposals coming out of a 2004 commission that looked at lessons from the 2003 Southern California wildfires. Many of the major recommendations in 2004 languished because of financial constraints, the inability to leapfrog bureaucracies and a failure to quickly win over lawmakers, builders and local governments on some of the more controversial proposals." San Diego Union Tribune (January 25, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-7-1747]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

State and Local Governments: Growing Fiscal Challenges Will Emerge during the Next 10 Years. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-317. (The Office, Washington, DC) January 22, 2008. 78 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08317.pdf>

["Our model shows that in less than a decade the state and local government sector will begin to face growing fiscal challenges. Both fiscal balance measures of, 1) net lending or borrowing and, 2) the operating balance -- are likely to remain within their historical ranges in the next few years. But both begin to decline thereafter and fall below their historical ranges within a decade. That is, absent policy changes, state and local governments will face an increasing gap between receipts and expenditures in the coming years. Since most state and local governments actually face requirements that their operating budgets be balanced or nearly balanced in most years, the declining fiscal conditions our simulations suggest are really just a foreshadowing of the extent to which these governments will need to make substantial policy changes."]
[Request #S08-7-1706]

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GOVERNMENT FINANCE

How Much Does the Federal Government Spend to Promote Economic Mobility? And for Whom? By Adam Carasso, New America Foundation, and others. (Economic Mobility Project, Washington, DC) February 2008. 50 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411610_economic_mobility.pdf

["This report tallies all federal spending and tax subsidies aimed at promoting the economic mobility of Americans for 1980, 2006, and 2012. This first effort at defining a mobility budget -- \$746 billion in 2006 -- reaches two major conclusions: 1) poor and lower-income households owe little or no tax and so are excluded from the bulk of economic mobility programs, which are often delivered in the form of tax subsidies; and 2) while these households do benefit from many other federal programs, those programs generally are not aimed at promoting mobility -- and sometimes even discourage it. Mobility enhancing programs targeted toward lower income households would decline as a share of GDP from 2006 to 2012, while those targeted to the better off would increase over the same period."] [Request #S08-7-1777]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Actuarially Speaking: A Plain Language Summary of Actuarial Methods and Practices for Public Employee Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits. By Grant Boyken, California Research Bureau, California State Library. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) February 2008. 23 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-003.pdf>

["In January 2008, the California Public Employee Post-Employment Benefits Commission issued recommendations to address the costs of providing public employee pension and retiree health benefits. Several of the Commission's recommendations -- and provisions of legislation introduced to implement those recommendations -- address actuarial practices used to determine funding levels for pension and retiree health benefits. Because actuarial methods are a unique and somewhat complex form of financial accounting, this 'plain language' summary was developed to serve as a reference guide for policy makers, government employers, pension and health plan administrators, and members of the general public interested in the topic."] [Request #S08-7-1735]

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STATE BUDGET

Two Steps Back: Should California Cut Its Way to a Balanced Budget? By the California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) February 2008. 67 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/080207_chartbookmasterbullets.pdf

["The budget crisis that began in 2001 was precipitated by a sharp drop in personal income tax collections attributable to stock options and capital gains. This time around, the deficit is the result of an economic slowdown, largely led by the housing sector; the cost of the Vehicle License Fee tax cut; and deficit-related debt service costs. Weakness in the state's housing markets has depressed property and sales tax collections. The budget crisis of the early 2000s primarily affected the state budget. The current crisis also will take a toll on county and city budgets that depend on property and sales taxes."]

[Request #S08-7-1775]

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STATE BUDGETS

What Will Happen to State Government Finances in a Recession? By Donald J. Boyd and Lucy Dadayan, Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) January 30, 2008. 27 p.

Full text at: <http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=13894>

["States historically have been able to cope with the initial stages of recessions by drawing down reserves and taking other limited steps to balance their budgets. The 2001 recession, however, resulted in sharp declines in state revenues and led to more significant spending reductions, including staffing reductions. As was the case before the 2001 recession, capital gains now constitute a large share of adjusted gross income, and thus contribute a large share of state tax revenues.... If the nation experiences a more pronounced, longer recession, the tendency of states to increase taxes and cut real expenditures may put further downward pressure on the nation's economy."]

[Request #S08-7-1699]

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HEALTH

HOSPITAL COSTS

Cost Efficiency at Hospitals Facilities in California, By Will Fox and John Pickering, Milliman, Inc. (CalPERS, Sacramento, California) October 17, 2007. 63 p.

Full text at: <http://www.calpers.ca.gov/eip-docs/about/press/news/health/cost-effct-at-hospitals-in-cali.pdf>

["As a whole, California hospitals charge billions of dollars more for their services than it costs to provide them, showing a wide range in the amounts hospitals in the state bill their patients. Some hospitals charge five times as much as others.... Statewide, in 2005, patients and insurers paid a total of \$18 billion for services provided by the hospitals, even though it cost the hospitals about \$13 billion to provide those services. ... The study's conclusions immediately drew fire from the California Hospital Association, which blasted the researchers' 'confusing' methodology." San Jose Mercury News (January 16, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-7-1750]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Whose Data Is It Anyway? Expanding Consumer Control over Personal Health Information. By Willim S. Bernstein and others, Manatt Health Solutions. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) February 2008. 9 p.

Full text at:
<http://www.chcf.org/documents/chronicdisease/WhoseDataIsItAnywayIB.pdf>

["This policy brief explores the technological and legal landscape governing personal health information, as well as important issues that must be addressed if consumers are to have new, meaningful rights to the electronic records they entrust to an information custodian serving on their behalf. Challenges include defining 'personal health information custodian' as an entity; determining the obligations of custodians, providers, and payers in an updated legal framework; providing economic incentives for clinicians to acquire the capability to electronically convey personal health information to consumers; and enforcement of applicable new laws. The authors conclude that a modernized legal structure is necessary to ensure that consumers can maintain control over their health information."]
[Request #S08-7-1776]

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MENTAL HEALTH

Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: The Essential Elements of a Mental Health Court. By Michael Thompson and others, Council of State Governments Justice Center. (The Center, New York, New York) 2007. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://consensusproject.org/mhcp/essential.elements.pdf>

["Mental health courts are specialized dockets that link defendants with mental illnesses to court-supervised, community-based treatment in lieu of traditional case processing.... This publication identifies 10 essential elements of mental health court design and implementation. Each element contains a short statement describing criteria mental health courts should meet, followed by several paragraphs explaining why the element is important and how courts can adhere to it. Ultimately, benchmarks will be added, enabling courts to better assess their fidelity to each element."] [Request #S08-7-1712]

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HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Locked Out 2008: The Housing Boom and Beyond. By Scott Graves and Alissa Anderson, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) February 2008.

["Despite recent declines in the cost of California real estate, median home prices remain unaffordable throughout the state, according to a report by a group calling on the governor and state lawmakers to confront the issue. Median incomes aren't enough to buy median-priced homes in every county it studied, 36 of the state's 58. The report assumes homes are out of reach if households have to dedicate more than 30 percent of their income to housing costs, the level above which people may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing and transportation. More than half of homeowners with a mortgage exceed that level in California.... Conditions aren't much better for the state's renters, who pay the second-highest rates in the nation, behind Hawaii." San Francisco Chronicle (February 14, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-7-1782]

Report. 60 p.

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/080212_LockedoutReport.pdf

Profile of California Counties. 54 p.

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/080213_CountyProfiles.pdf

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Analyzing Affordability in Metropolitan Housing Markets. By Daniel Melser & Celia Chen, Moody's Economy.com. Prepared for Homes for Working Families. (Homes for Working Families, Washington, DC)) January 28, 2008.

["The report focuses on home affordability for middle-income households -- those earning between 60 percent and 120 percent of area median income -- in light of recent developments in house prices, interest rates and mortgage markets. Understanding the barriers to home affordability for middle-income households is important as this group generally does not qualify for affordable housing programs and is experiencing rising cost burdens. In addition, examining the regional variations in housing affordability also is important, as house prices and supply conditions vary considerably by location. "]

[Request #S08-7-1710]

Report. 72 p

http://www.homesforworkingfamilies.org/resources.dyn/Analyzing_Affordability_1.30.08_FINAL.pdf

Summary. 6 p.

http://www.homesforworkingfamilies.org/resources.dyn/Analyzing_Affordability_Summary.pdf

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Broken Bonds: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents. AND: Understanding the Needs and Experiences of Children of Incarcerated Parents: Views from Mentors. By Nancy G. La Vigne and others, Urban Institute Justice Policy Center. (The Institute, Washington, DC) February 2008.

["Over 1.5 million children in this country currently have one or both of their parents incarcerated. In addition to the trauma of this loss, these children face tremendous uncertainty in their living arrangements, relationships with loved ones, and family financial stability. Short-term coping responses and heavy stigma are common, both of which may lead to long-term emotional and behavioral challenges. This report reviews the current research on children with incarcerated parents and offers recommendations on how to reduce the negative impact of parental

incarceration, with particular attention to the role of supportive relationships with the incarcerated parent and other adults."]
[Request #S08-7-1780]

Broken Bonds. 21 p
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411616_incarcerated_parents.pdf

Views from Mentors. 14 p.
http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411615_Children_of.pdf

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FAMILIES

Family Strengthening Writ Large: On Becoming a Nation that Promotes Strong Families and Successful Youth. By the Family Strengthening Policy Center. (National Human Services Assembly, Washington, DC) December 2007. 26 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nasassembly.org/fspc/news/documents/brief24.pdf>

[" Most children raised in families that have three fundamentals grow up to become caring, contributing, and successful adults. The fundamentals of these strong and supportive families are: 1) loving, nurturing relationships; 2) financial stability (i.e., family economic success); and 3) positive connections to people, organizations, and opportunities.... This brief explores these fundamentals in depth: why they are important and what policies, programs, and practices make a difference. The brief then explores the role of cultural and systemic change in creating the conditions that will actively support families and parent/caregivers in raising children. It concludes with recommendations for the familystrengthening field, policy makers, and employers."]
[Request #S08-7-1773]

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HOMELESS

Toward Understanding Homelessness: The 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research. Edited by Deborah Dennis, Policy Research Associates, Inc., and others. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC) September 2007. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/homelessness/symposium07/>

["This publication is a compendium of the 12 papers prepared for and presented at the second National Symposium on Homelessness Research.... The landscape of homelessness research has evolved significantly. New models for housing and service delivery have emerged, and cutting edge research has expanded our understanding of the various populations that experience homelessness. Research on the dynamics of shelter use has yielded important information about the characteristics of single individuals experiencing homelessness and has brought focus to the population experiencing chronic homelessness. Efforts continue within and across federal agencies to standardize homeless-related data definitions and improve performance measurement activities.]

[Request #S08-7-1709]

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TRANSPORTATION

DRIVERS

Effects of Gasoline Prices on Driving Behavior and Vehicle Markets. By David Austin, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) January 2008. 58 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/88xx/doc8893/01-14-GasolinePrices.pdf>

["Although consumers in the past did not respond very much to small fluctuations in the price of gasoline, the recent large increases have led many people to make adjustments, for example, in the way they drive and in the kinds of vehicles they buy. The study relates rising gasoline prices to changes in how fast people drive, the volume of highway traffic, and rail transit ridership. It also examines the effects on market shares, fuel economy, and pricing of cars and light trucks purchased over the past several years. This study provides an indication of the kinds of adjustments consumers would make if gasoline prices continue to rise, and of the implications of rising gasoline prices for policies that would discourage gasoline consumption."]

[Request #S08-7-1768]

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USER FEES

Oregon's Mileage Fee Concept and Road User Fee Pilot Program: Final Report. By James M. Whitty, Oregon Department of Transportation. (The Department, Salem, Oregon) November 2007. 101 p.

Full text at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/RUFPP/docs/RUFPP_finalreport.pdf

[“The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has released a report on a pilot program that examined the feasibility of replacing the gas tax with a mileage-based fee based on miles driven in Oregon and collected at fueling stations. The pilot program also explores the feasibility of using this system to collect congestion charges. ODOT launched a 12-month pilot program in April 2006 designed to test the technological and administrative feasibility of this concept. The program included 285 volunteer vehicles, 299 motorists, and two service stations in Portland.” TRB Newsletter (January 23, 2008) 1.]

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